§ 73.1125 Station telephone number requires *“Each AM, FM, TV, and Class A TV broadcast station shall maintain a local telephone number in its community of license or a toll-free number.”*

There was a time when phone companies charged a hefty price for consumers to make calls outside of their geographical area – known as long distance calls. There are many instances of radio and TV stations having their studios far enough away from their respective city of license, that making a phone call to the studio would incur additional long distance charges to their phone bill. When the studios are located in a different state from the city of license, the charges could be astronomical…depending on the length of the phone call. This was also during a time when most residents had so called “landline” phone service in their homes.

Citation **82 FR 57882**, effective January 8, 2018, eliminated the main studio rule, finding that *“…technological innovations have eliminated the need for a local main studio.”* But the citation retained §73.1125(e) of the rules, requiring *“[e]ach AM, FM, TV and Class A TV broadcast station [to] maintain a local telephone number in its community of license or a toll-free number.”* Stating that *“Some consumers are subject to an additional fee for non-local calls.”* This is no longer the case.

Landlines are being phased out by most of the national phone companies. The ones that remain, the majority of them no longer charge extra for long distance calls. Most households nowadays have forgone the typical landline in favor of personal cellular phones, none of which incur additional charges for making calls that in the past would have been considered long distance.

I believe it is time to eliminate rule **§ 73.1125 Station telephone number**. Technological innovations have eliminated the need for a local or toll-free number to be maintained in a station’s community of license. Eliminating this rule will result in significant cost savings for broadcasters and other public interest benefits.